

Woman Citizen of the Year" from Florida International University and the "Community Headliner Award."

The life of Dr. Tabares-Fernandez is an inspiration to us all. I am certain that her children, Pepita, Raul, Jr., Aurelio, Patricia, Cesareo, Maria, Juan, Sheila, Jose, and Ximena, are proud of her as well.

Her professional choices, as well as the projects she has enthusiastically undertaken in her free time, reveal Dr. Tabares-Fernandez's life to be one of tireless public service. Her numerous contributions have helped to make our community the extraordinary multicultural metropolis that it is today. As a result, Dr. Tabares-Fernandez has earned herself a very special place in the rich Cuban-American history of South Florida. Dr. Ofelia Tabares-Fernandez is a true humanitarian whose work has permanently impacted our community in a wonderful way.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE Q. CRISOSTOMO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize CSM George Q. Crisostomo on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army after 28 years of service.

Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo has served our country with distinction both in peacetime and wartime. His exemplary service includes assignments as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Benning, Georgia, and as a Senior ROTC Instructor in Puerto Rico. He served his first combat tour in support of Operation Desert Storm as a Platoon Sergeant while assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 17th Infantry (RAKASSAN), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Most recently, Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo served a combat tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Command Sergeant Major with the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Throughout his Army career, Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo distinguished himself as a leader, serving in positions where soldiers relied upon him for guidance, experience, and knowledge. In addition to his leadership assignments in combat and service as an instructor, Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo has served as a Scout Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Company First Sergeant, and Battalion Command Sergeant Major. He was a "soldier's soldier."

Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo's exemplary service earned him numerous awards and military decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Meritorious Service Medal. He also earned the Expert and Combat Infantryman badges. Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo received the Korea National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

I wish to recognize the sacrifices and support of Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo's

family, especially his wife, Claire. I also recognize the positive influence that he has had in preparing his children for their futures. His daughter, Jenna Lynn, is now a senior at the University of Arizona, and his son, SGT Joshua D. Crisostomo, is following in his footsteps and is currently serving in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.

On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful Nation, we congratulate Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo and his family as he retires from the United States Army, and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

MR. AMIGO 2006

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I wish today to commend the 2006 "Mr. Amigo," Lucero Hoganza León, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Like Cher, Ms. León is popularly known only as "Lucero" among her many fans in the U.S. and Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our two countries.

The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" presides over the annual Charro Days Festival.

The Charro Days Festival is a pre-Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, held in Brownsville and Matamoros. Charro Days festivities last for several days; this year they will be February 25–28 and will include parades and appearances by Lucero. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area.

As Mr. Amigo 2006, Lucero will head the international parade of Brownsville Charro Days and Matamoros Fiestas Mexicanas festivities.

During Charro Days, South Texans celebrate the food, music, dances, and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The United States-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace; we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future.

Lucero was chosen for this honor based on her accomplishments as an entertainer and her efforts for people with disabilities. Her philanthropic career started in December 1997 when she hosted 27 uninterrupted hours of a telethon to raise money for a rehabilitation center for the handicapped.

While Lucero has won many awards as an entertainer, she has also been named the recipient of the 2002 Double Eagle Leadership

Award. She has recorded 20 albums, including "Ocho Quince," and starred in 6 telenovelas in her career. Currently, she stars in the acclaimed telenovela "Alborada." She co-hosted the seventh annual Latin Grammy Awards in early 2006.

During difficult times in our world, the Mr. Amigo concept unites sister cities on both sides of the border and sends a message that we are neighbors, and mends that trust, understand, and respect each other. We share a language, customs and during Charro Days, we take time to celebrate our distinctive culture.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Lucero, the 2006 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH TERWILLIGER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Terwilliger, one of Marin County's most beloved heroines, an environmentalist who instilled a love of nature in children of all ages. "Mrs. T.," as she was known to all, died on November 27, 2006, at the age of 97.

Her enthusiastic and interactive teaching style made learning about nature especially entertaining and instructive for children and adults alike. This included President Reagan who, along with an audience at a White House Volunteer Action Award ceremony, flapped his arms like "Mr. Vulture" under her guidance. Her irresistible style ranged from mimicking animal behaviors to demonstrations with taxidermied animals, some of which had come via her own freezer. In her trademark straw hat, she led field trips until she was 85, where her call of "Something special!" alerted eager participants to yet another marvel of the natural world.

Mrs. T's long-time passion for the environment had burgeoned when she started hiking to avoid housework in the 1960s. From that, she became committed to inspire the people of the Bay Area to care for the natural world as she did. "People take care of what they love," she claimed.

This mission began with including other housewives, and then their children, on her hikes, as well as leading field trips for her children's schools and clubs. By the late 60s, she was leading volunteer trips 5 days a week for teachers and wildlife organizations and, in 1970, created Terwilliger Nature Guides with other volunteers. In 1975, the Elizabeth Terwilliger Nature Education Foundation was formed; it later merged with the California Center for Wildlife and became WildCare, an organization which today teaches 40,000 Bay Area school children annually.

"WildCare is honored to follow directly in Mrs. T's adventurous footsteps," said Executive Director Karen J. Wilson. "We are all fortunate that her enthusiasm and energy will live on in the generations of children she has inspired. To underscore her Bay Area legacy, WildCare recently named our San Rafael facility in her honor—we have become the Terwilliger WildCare Center."